

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1154
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PASS TREASURY FOR SYVRUD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, FR
SUBJECT: CGT-CFDT POST ELECTION STRATEGY

REF: PARIS 08761

1. THE SCHEDULED MARCH 28 STRATEGY SESSION BETWEEN THE CGT AND CFDT FAILED TO TAKE PLACE. WHEN THE CGT ADVISED CFDT GENERAL SECRETARY MAIRE THAT ITS TWO PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS (SEGUY AND KRASUCKI) WOULD BE OUT OF TOWN AND UNAVAILABLE, HE DECIDED HE, TOO, HAD BETTER THINGS TO DO, AND THE MEETING HAS NOW BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR LATE NEXT WEEK.

2. THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM BETWEEN THE TWO FEDERATIONS WOULD APPEAR TO BE THE QUESTION OF THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE STEEL INDUSTRY. THE CGT IS ALL FOR IT, AND

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WISHES THE CFDT TO JOIN WITH IT IN A DAY OF ACTION ON APRIL 14. THE CFDT, HOWEVER, SEES THINGS DIFFERENTLY. CFDT METAL WORKERS GENERAL SECRETARY CHEREQUE HAS TOLD LABATT THAT NATIONALIZATION WOULD JUST CREATE CAPITAL FUND FOR SHAREHOLDERS IN WHAT HE REGARDS AS AN INDUSTRY ALREADY HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON STATE FINANCING. HE BELIEVES SOME KIND OF STATE

PARTICIPATION IN MANAGEMENT OF THE INDUSTRY IS WHAT IS NEEDED. CHEREQUE'S POSITION ALSO APPEARS TO REFLECT SOME OF THE WELL-KNOWN CFDT THEORETICAL HOSTILITY TOWARDS NATIONALIZATION AS OPPOSED TO AUTOGESTION, AS A UNIVERSAL PANACEA, AND THE CFDT RECENTLY HAS MADE NOISES TO REMIND EVERYONE IT IS NOT BOUND TO THAT PART OF THE COMMON PROGRAM.

3. IT IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, IF THE CFDT REFUSAL TO JOIN WITH THE CGT ON THE STEEL ISSUE IS WHAT CAUSED M. SEGUY TO LEAVE TOWN. (THE FO TELLS US HE IS IN LONDON, AND THAT CP GENERAL SECRETARY MARCHAIS IS IN MOSCOW.) IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT SEGUY ANTICIPATED THAT THE PENDING GOVERNMENTAL RESHUFFLE MIGHT STEAL THE LIMELIGHT FROM ANY CGT-CFDT GET-TOGETHER, AND THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO LET THE NEW CABINET BE NAMED AND TAKE OFFICE BEFORE TRYING TO MAP OUT ANY LONG-TERM STRATEGY. IF THAT WAS SEGUY'S THINKING, IT WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN WELL FOUNDED. UNIONS AND COMMENTATORS ON LABOR SCENE ARE NOW ALL FOCUSING ON NEW GOVERNMENT'S FORMATION, AND WHITE-COLLAR CGC IS CALLING FOR A SUMMIT OF GOVERNMENT AND ALL ORGANIZATIONS ON UNEMPLOYMENT.

4. THE GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE HAS ALSO THROWN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON PUBLIC AND NATIONALIZED SECTORS TEMPORARILY INTO A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION. (IN THE GAS INDUSTRY, THE FO HAS BACKED OFF FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACCEPTING A COMPROMISE ALONG THE LINES IT ORIGINALLY SUGGESTED.) ON THE UNION SIDE, EVERYONE APPEARS TO BE WAITING TO SEE WHAT THE NEW CABINET IS GOING TO LOOK LIKE, AND PRESERVING THEIR FREEDOM TO MANEUVER.

5. MEANWHILE, AND DESPITE THEIR LARGER DIFFERENCES, THE CGT AND CFDT ARE PURSUING THEIR COOPERATION ON THE LOCAL LEVEL IN A VARIETY OF FIELDS WHERE THEIR INTERESTS COINCIDE. JOINT PRESS RELEASES ARE GROWING MORE COMMON; AND BOTH FEDERATIONS ARE GLEEFULLY JOINING IN STAGING A SNAP 24-HOUR STRIKE AGAINST THE MINISTRY OF LABOR (ON A LOCAL ISSUE) BOTH AT THE HEADQUARTERS AND LOCAL LEVELS, ON MARCH 30. GAMMON

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